

What is claimed is:

1 1. A medical device, comprising:

2 a substrate that is expandable from a compressed  
3 state to an expanded state;

4 a coating on said substrate, said coating having a  
5 drug agent incorporated therein; and

6 a sheath over said coating, said sheath being  
7 expandable from a compressed state to an expanded state  
8 and having at least one perforation therein;

9 wherein when said substrate is in a compressed  
10 state, said sheath is in a compressed state and said at  
11 least one perforation is substantially closed such that  
12 said drug agent does not pass through said at least one  
13 perforation; and

14 wherein when said substrate is in an expanded state,  
15 said sheath is in an expanded state and said at least one  
16 perforation is substantially open such that said drug  
17 agent passes through said at least one perforation.

1 2. The device of claim 1, wherein said coating comprises a  
2 polymer selected from the group consisting of  
3 polycarboxylic acids, cellulosic polymers, gelatin,  
4 polyvinylpyrrolidone, maleic anhydride polymers,  
5 polyamides, polyvinyl alcohols, polyethylene oxides,  
6 glycosaminoglycans, polysaccharides, polyesters,  
7 polyacrylamides, polyethers, polyurethane dispersions,

8 acrylic latex dispersions, and mixtures and copolymers  
9 thereof.

1 3. The device of claim 1, wherein said drug agent is  
2 selected from the group consisting of pharmaceutically  
3 active compounds, proteins, oligonucleotides, DNA  
4 compacting agents, recombinant nucleic acids, gene/vector  
5 systems, and nucleic acids.

1 4. The device of claim 1, wherein said sheath comprises a  
material selected from the group consisting of ethylene  
vinyl acetate, latexes, urethanes, polysiloxanes,  
styrene-ethylene/butylene-styrene block copolymers,  
aliphatic polyesters, and mixtures and copolymers  
thereof; and nitinol and stainless steel.

5. The device of claim 1, wherein said at least one  
perforation is in the shape of a longitudinal slit.

1 6. The device of claim 5, wherein said sheath comprises a  
2 plurality of perforations arranged in a staggered  
3 pattern.

1 7. The device of claim 1, wherein said substrate comprises  
2 at least part of a balloon portion of a balloon catheter.

1 8. The device of claim 7, wherein said sheath is tubular and  
2 surrounds said balloon portion of said balloon catheter,  
3 said tubular sheath having proximal and distal ends.

1 9. The device of claim 8, wherein said proximal and distal  
2 ends of said sheath are attached to said balloon catheter  
3 such that said balloon portion is completely covered by  
4 said sheath.

1 10. The device of claim 9, wherein said proximal and distal  
2 ends of said sheath are attached to said balloon catheter  
by an adhesive.

11. The device of claim 9, further comprising a filament  
around said proximal and distal ends of said sheath.

12. A method for the localized delivery of a drug agent to a  
target location within a mammalian body, comprising the  
steps of:

providing a medical device comprising:

a substrate that is expandable from a  
compressed state to an expanded state;

a coating on said substrate; and

a sheath over said coating, said sheath  
being expandable from a compressed state to an  
expanded state and having at least one  
perforation therein;

12 wherein when said substrate is in a  
13 compressed state, said sheath is in a  
14 compressed state and said at least one  
15 perforation is substantially closed; and

16 wherein when said substrate is in an  
17 expanded state, said sheath is in an expanded  
18 state and said at least one perforation in  
19 said expandable sheath is substantially open;

20 incorporating said drug agent into said coating;

21 delivering said medical device to said target  
22 location while said sheath is in a compressed state and  
23 said at least one perforation is substantially closed;  
24 and

25 expanding said substrate to thereby expand said  
26 sheath to an expanded state such that said at least one  
27 perforation is substantially open, whereby the drug agent  
28 passes through said at least one perforation.

1 13. The method of claim 12, wherein said step of  
2 incorporating the drug agent into said coating comprises  
3 the steps of:

4 expanding said substrate to thereby expand said  
5 sheath such that said at least one perforation is  
6 substantially open;

7 exposing said drug agent to said coating through  
8 said at least one perforation while said at least one  
9 perforation is substantially open; and

compressing said substrate to thereby compress said sheath such that said at least one perforation is substantially closed.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein said drug agent is exposed to said coating by immersing at least part of said medical device into a solution comprising said drug agent..

15. The method of claim 12, wherein said coating comprises a polymer selected from the group consisting of polycarboxylic acids, cellulosic polymers, gelatin, polyvinylpyrrolidone, maleic anhydride polymers, polyamides, polyvinyl alcohols, polyethylene oxides, glycosaminoglycans, polysaccharides, polyesters, polyacrylamides, polyethers, polyurethane dispersions, acrylic latex dispersions, and mixtures and copolymers thereof.

16. The method of claim 12, wherein said drug agent is selected from the group consisting of pharmaceutically active compounds, proteins, oligonucleotides, genes, DNA compacting agents, gene/vector systems, and nucleic acids.

17. The method of claim 12, wherein said sheath comprises a material selected from the group consisting of ethylene vinyl acetate, latexes, urethanes, polysiloxanes,

styrene-ethylene/butylene-styrene block copolymers,  
aliphatic polyesters, and mixtures and copolymers  
thereof; and nitinol and stainless steel.

18. The method of claim 12, wherein said at least one  
perforation is in the shape of a longitudinal slit.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein said at least one  
perforation comprises a plurality of perforations  
arranged in a staggered pattern.

20. The method of claim 12, wherein said substrate comprises  
at least part of a balloon portion of a balloon catheter.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein said sheath is tubular  
and surrounds said balloon portion of said balloon  
catheter, said tubular sheath having proximal and distal  
ends.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein said proximal and distal  
ends of said sheath are attached to said balloon catheter  
such that said balloon portion is completely covered by  
said sheath.

23. The method of claim 12, wherein said medical device  
comprises an electroporation catheter.

1 24. The method of claim 12, wherein said medical device  
2 comprises an iontophoresis catheter.

1 25. A medical device, comprising:

2 a catheter comprising a balloon portion that is  
3 expandable from a compressed state to an expanded state;

4 a polymer coating on said balloon portion, said  
5 coating having a drug agent incorporated therein; and

6 a tubular sheath over said coating, said sheath  
7 being expandable from a compressed state to an expanded  
8 state and having a plurality of perforations therein,  
9 said perforations being arranged in a staggered pattern;  
10 wherein

11 the proximal and distal ends of said sheath are  
12 attached to said catheter such that said balloon portion  
13 is completely covered by said sheath;

14 when said balloon portion is in a compressed state,  
15 said sheath is in a compressed state and said  
16 perforations are substantially closed such that said drug  
17 agent does not pass through said perforations; and

18 when said balloon portion is in an expanded state,  
19 said sheath is in an expanded state and said perforations  
20 are substantially open such that said drug agent passes  
21 through said perforations.